

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## 2015 Grazing Season (3/01/2015-2/28/2016)

### Williams Ranger District Kaibab National Forest

Big Springs / Cowboy Tank / Squaw Mountain / Twin Tanks Allotments



Agreed To By: Joe Auza

Joe & Carmen Auza, Joe Auza Sheep  
Company, Inc., *Permittees*

Date: 5/4/2015

Approved By: Danelle D. Harrison

Danelle D. Harrison, *District Ranger*

Date: 5/4/2015



## 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

**Allotment:** Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, Squaw Mountain, and Twin Tanks Allotments

**Permittee:** Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.

**Permit Number:** 07-868

**Permitted Use:**

Permittee	Allotment	Numbers	Type	Season
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway	2,000 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/01-05/31
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Big Springs	2,000 Sheep/Ewes	Term	06/01-09/30
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Big Springs	50 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/01-06/30
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Cowboy Tank	1,016 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Cowboy Tank	30 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/01-07/15
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Squaw Mountain	2,032 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Squaw Mountain	60 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/01-07/15
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Twin Tanks	1,025 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Twin Tanks	30 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/11-07/11

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2015:

Permittee	Allotment	Numbers	Type	Season
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway	2,000 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/01-05/31
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Big Springs	1,800 Sheep/Ewes	Term	06/01-09/30
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Big Springs	50 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/01-06/30
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Cowboy Tank	700 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Cowboy Tank	30 Sheep Rams	Term	06/01-07/15
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Squaw Mountain	1,000 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Squaw Mountain	60 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/01-07/15
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Twin Tanks	700 Sheep/Ewes	Term	05/21-10/20
Joe Auza Sheep Company, Inc.	Twin Tanks	30 Sheep/Rams	Term	06/11-07/11

**Counting Livestock:** The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

- a. All sheep six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

**Nonuse:** Application for credit or refund must be made in “**writing**” and “**in advance**” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Williams Ranger District Office. **Note:** Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is \$100.00 or more and District Range personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

2. **Management:** Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, Squaw Mountain, and Twin Tanks 2015 Pasture Rotation:

Big Springs Allotment*		Cowboy Tank Allotment	
1	Buck Springs	1	Laws Trick Tank
2	Big Springs	2	Cowboy Tank
3	Pancho Viejo Tank	3	Horse Trap Hill
4	Deadhorse Tank	4	East Pit Tank
5	Pomeroy Spring		
6	KA Hill		
Squaw Mountain Allotment		Twin Tanks Allotment	
1	Marteen Lake	1	Locust Tank
2	Squaw Mountain	2	Little Squaw Mountain
3	Backward Tank	3	Boulin Trick Tank
4	Red Hill	4	Twin South Tank
5	Horse Lake		

*\*At no time will sheep be allowed to graze, water, or bed down at Big Springs Wash.*

All sheep are to be actively herded within each grazing unit and from one grazing unit to the next. Sheep are not permitted to bed down for more than 3 consecutive days in any one area.

Please notify us of sheep movements onto and off of the allotments, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 14 days, please contact District Range personnel at least two weeks in advance so that we have time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

In accordance with the Decision Memo signed on October 3, 1995, the allowable use level set for the Big Springs Allotment will be conservative use of 40%. In accordance with the Decision Memo signed on October 3, 1995, the allowable use level set for the Cowboy Tank/Squaw Mountain Allotments will be conservative use of 40%. In accordance with the Decision Memo signed on September 26, 2008, the allowable use level set for the Twin Tanks Allotment will be conservative use of 35%. Key areas will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move

livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If sheep cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Range personnel. Sheep will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotments. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District Range personnel and/or on your own.

Allotment	Monitoring date
Beaverhead-Grief Hill	5/27/15-5/28/15
Big Springs	7/8/15 & 9/10/15
Cowboy Tank	7/14/15-7/15/15 & 10/6/15-10/9/15
Squaw Mountain	7/14/15-7/15/15 & 10/6/15-10/9/15
Twin Tanks	7/14/15-7/16/15 & 10/6/15-10/9/15

**4. Forage Growth and Water Availability:**

Per Part 2, clause 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit, if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2015 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

**5. Fire**

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted. During periods of critical fire danger, the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special restrictions. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, vehicles, ATV's, and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service Land.

**6. Salt and Supplement Policy**

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
- Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.

- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein, and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.

**7. Travel Management:**

The Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. Implementation of TMR will require active management of all motorized use, including that related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system by grazing permit holders should be based on need related to carrying out required management practices. Legitimate motorized use, including cross-country access, needed for conducting activities required under Term Grazing Permits will be authorized unless compelling natural and/or heritage resource issues are evident.

Any unplanned or emergency type travel not previously contemplated in the Term Grazing Permit will be discussed with appropriate authorization and guidance established in the AOI. If access is required in a motor vehicle restricted area or on a closed road, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your AOI.

**8. Range Improvements:**

All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for fences when it comes to complete rebuilds and the use of heavy equipment to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. In the event that you are authorized to use heavy equipment, please follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance. General maintenance/repair, such as replacing several T-posts, braces, and strands of wire is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District Range personnel in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work to inquire about the availability of materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

A Forest Products Free Use Permit must be obtained in order to cut juniper fence posts and stays for use only on your Forest Service allotment. No tree cutting is allowed without a forest products permit.

Hazard trees may need to be cut to prevent them from falling on fences. However, no tree cutting may be conducted without specific written permission from the Forest Service.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements were discussed and planned for this grazing season:

**Improvements:**

1. Normal fence maintenance throughout the allotment.
  2. If the need should arise for any cleaning out of dirt tanks, you must contact Archeologist Neil Weintraub (928-635-5647) for required clearances at least two weeks in advance of when you would like to begin work on dirt tanks.
9. **The Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, Squaw Mountain, and Twin Tanks Allotments Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the October 3, 1995 Big Springs Allotment Decision Notice for the Big Springs Allotment; the October 3, 1995 Cowboy Tank/Squaw Mountain Allotments Decision Notice for the Cowboy Tank/Squaw Mountain Allotments, the February 24, 1998 Cowboy Tank/Squaw Mountain Allotments Management Plan; and the September 26, 2008 Twin Tanks Allotment Decision Notice for the Twin Tanks Allotment, and the December 2008 Twin Tanks Allotment Management Plan. All allotments follow the Kaibab National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, Squaw Mountain, and Twin Tanks Allotments. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.